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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. EXT-071

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Jones *et al.* Confirmation No.: 9748
SERIAL NO.: 09/766,880 GROUP NO.: 1637
FILING DATE: January 19, 2001 EXAMINER: Siew, J.
TITLE: Method and Apparatus for Separating and Detecting Nucleic Acid

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to Continued Examination, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and consider the accompanying remarks. Appropriate fees and forms for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are filed herewith.

The following amendment and remarks are made in response to the final Office Action dated January 14, 2004 (the "Office Action"). Applicants submit that no extension-of-time, or related fee, is required for this Preliminary Amendment to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension fees or any other fees necessary for entry and consideration of this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.